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Social development: social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Portugal, Republic of Moldova and Senegal: draft resolution

Policies and programmes involving youth

The General Assembly,

Recalling the World Programme of Action for Youth, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolutions 50/81 of 14 December 1995 and 62/126 of 18 December 2007,

Welcoming the participation of youth representatives in national delegations at the General Assembly,

Affirming that generating decent work and quality employment for youth is one of the biggest challenges that needs to be tackled, emphasizing the priority areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth linked to the employability of youth, including education, health and access to information and technology, and bearing in mind that over 73 million young people are unemployed,

Recalling that Member States have an important role in meeting the needs and aspirations of youth, including youth with disabilities, and recognizing that the ways in which young people are able to fulfil their potential will influence social and economic conditions and the well-being and livelihood of future generations,

Acknowledging that the current generation of youth is the largest one ever, and in this context reaffirming the importance of involving youth and youth-led and youth-focused organizations in the work of the United Nations at the national, regional and international levels, in all matters of concern to them, including the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth and the achievement of the internationally agreed Sustainable Development Goals,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled "Transforming our world:

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the 2030 agenda for sustainable development",[1] adopted by Heads of State and Government on 25 September 2015, and recognizing that the 2030 Agenda includes important goals and targets pertaining to youth,

1. *Takes note with interest* of the report of the Secretary-General on ways to promote effective, structured and sustainable youth participation;[2]

2. *Reaffirms* the World Programme of Action for Youth, and emphasizes that all 15 priority areas of the Programme of Action are interrelated and mutually reinforcing;

3. *Also reaffirms* the commitment of Heads of State and Government, as contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to develop and implement strategies that give young people everywhere real opportunities for full, effective and constructive participation in society;

4. *Reiterates* that the primary responsibility for implementing the World Programme of Action for Youth lies with Member States, and urges Governments, in consultation with youth, youth-led and youth-focused organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to develop holistic and integrated youth policies and programmes based on the Programme of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals and to evaluate them regularly as part of the follow-up action on and implementation of the Programme of Action at all levels;

5. *Calls upon* Member States to consider, on a voluntary basis, the indicators proposed in the report of the Secretary-General[3] for their selection and adaptation in monitoring and assessing the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, giving particular attention to young women and marginalized groups, including indigenous youth, youth in rural areas, youth with disabilities and young migrants, taking into account the national social and economic circumstances in each country;

6. *Urges* Member States to promote equal opportunities for all, to eliminate all forms of discrimination against young people, including discrimination based on race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, and to foster social integration for social groups such as young persons with disabilities, young migrants and indigenous youth on an equal basis with others;

7. *Reiterates* that the eradication of poverty, hunger and malnutrition, particularly as they affect children and youth, is crucial for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recalls the commitment to eradicate poverty and promote sustained economic growth, sustainable development and global prosperity for all, including the strengthening of international cooperation through the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments and the transfer of appropriate technology and capacity-building with regard to youth, and the need for urgent action on all sides, including more ambitious national development strategies and efforts backed by increased international support to realize the opportunity of the demographic dividend offered by the largest number of young people ever in the history of humankind, and calls for the increased participation of youth and

[1] Resolution 70/1.
[2] A/70/156.
[3] E/CN.5/2013/8.

youth-led and youth-focused organizations in the development of such national development strategies;

8. *Emphasizes* the role of education and health literacy in improving health outcomes over a lifetime, and in this regard encourages Member States to promote health education and health literacy among young people, including through evidence-based education and information strategies and programmes, both in and out of school, and through public campaigns, and to increase the access of youth to affordable, safe, effective and sustainable health-care services and social services and adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene by paying special attention to, and raising awareness regarding, nutrition, including eating disorders and obesity, the effects of non-communicable and communicable diseases and sexual and reproductive health-care services, information and education, and recognizes the need to develop safe and youth-friendly counselling and substance abuse prevention programmes;

9. *Also emphasizes* that addressing the specific needs of young people in the response to HIV and AIDS is a key element in efforts to achieve an AIDS-free generation, and urges Member States to strengthen efforts in this regard, including by ensuring the active involvement of young people living with or affected by HIV in the response;

10. *Reiterates* that access to quality formal and non-formal education, including, as appropriate, catch-up and literacy education, including in information and communications technologies for those who did not receive formal education, information and communications technologies and volunteerism are important factors that enable young people to acquire the relevant skills and to build their capacities for employability and entrepreneurial development and gain decent and productive work, and calls upon Member States to take the actions necessary to ensure that young people have access to such services and opportunities;

11. *Urges* Member States to address the challenges faced by girls and young women and to address gender stereotypes that perpetuate discrimination and violence against girls and young women and the stereotypical roles of men and women that preclude social development by reaffirming the commitment to the empowerment of women and gender equality and the human rights of all women and girls, to engage, educate, encourage and support men and boys to take responsibility for their behaviour in this regard, to mainstream a gender perspective into all development efforts, recognizing that such actions are critical for achieving sustainable development and for efforts to combat hunger, poverty and disease, and to strengthen policies and programmes that improve, ensure and broaden the full participation of young women in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life, as equal partners, and improve their access to all resources needed for the full exercise of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms by removing persistent barriers, including ensuring equal access to full and productive employment and decent work and strengthening their economic independence;

12. *Urges* Member States to address high rates of youth unemployment, underemployment, vulnerable employment and informal employment by developing and implementing targeted and integrated local and national youth employment policies for inclusive, sustainable and innovative job creation, improved employability, skills development and vocational training to improve the chances of the sustainable integration of youth into labour markets and increased

entrepreneurship, including the development of networks of young entrepreneurs at the local, national, regional and global levels that foster knowledge among young people about their rights and responsibilities in society, and in this regard requests donors, specialized United Nations entities and the private sector to continue to provide assistance to Member States, including technical and funding support, as appropriate;

13. *Emphasizes* the importance of the impact of a fair globalization, and encourages Member States to take measures that minimize the negative effects of globalization and maximize its benefits, such as offering relevant education and training for young people in order to enable their access to decent jobs and better employment opportunities and to meet the needs of changing labour markets, and that enable young migrants to enjoy their human rights;

14 *Recognizes* that youth participation is important for development, and urges Member States and entities of the United Nations system, in consultation with youth and youth-led and youth-focused organizations, to explore new avenues to promote full, effective, structured, and sustainable participation by young people and youth-led organizations in relevant decision-making processes, including in the design and implementation of policies, programmes and initiatives and in the follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

15. *Also recognizes* that the international community is facing increasing challenges posed by climate change and the loss of biodiversity, which have increased vulnerabilities and inequalities and adversely affected development gains, in particular in developing countries, and calling for enhanced cooperation and concerted action to address those challenges, taking into account the positive role that education can play in that respect;

16. *Calls upon* Member States to take concrete measures to further assist youth in armed conflict situations, in accordance with the World Programme of Action for Youth, and to encourage the involvement of young people, where appropriate, in activities concerning the protection of children and youth affected by armed conflict situations, including in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and post-conflict processes;

17. *Urges* Member States to consider including youth delegates in their delegations at all relevant discussions in the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions and relevant United Nations conferences, as appropriate, bearing in mind the principles of gender balance and non-discrimination, and emphasizes that such youth representatives should be selected through a transparent process that ensures that they have a suitable mandate to represent the young people in their countries;

18. *Acknowledges* the increased collaboration through the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development in developing the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Youth, requests the United Nations entities, within existing resources, to continue their coordination towards a more coherent, comprehensive and integrated approach to youth development, calls upon the United Nations entities and relevant partners to support national, regional and international efforts to address challenges hindering youth development, and in this regard encourages close collaboration with Member States and other relevant stakeholders, including civil society;

19. *Calls upon* the United Nations Programme on Youth to continue to act as the focal point within the United Nations system for promoting further collaboration and coordination on youth-related matters;

20. *Calls upon* donors, including Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to actively contribute to the United Nations Youth Fund in order to facilitate the participation of youth representatives from developing countries in the activities of the United Nations, taking into account the need for greater geographical balance of youth representation, as well as to accelerate the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth and to support the production of the *World Youth Report*, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate action to encourage contributions to the Fund;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session on the implementation of the present resolution, including on the linkages and complementarities regarding youth issues between the World Programme of Action for Youth and the Sustainable Development Goals, to be prepared in consultation with Member States and the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes and regional commissions, taking into account the work done by the United Nations system, and also encourages the Secretariat to consult, as appropriate, with youth-led and youth-focused organizations.